**Africa RISING PCT Meeting 10 January 2014**

**Scientific Advisory Committee**

The PCT agreed to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee (see Annex 1).

Five prospective members were invited and all have accepted:

* Salvador Fernández Rivera, INIFAP, Mexico. CIMMYT Board Member.
* Christine Okali, Independent Consultant and Associate of University of East Anglia. Chair of HumidTropics Advisory Committee.
* Maggie Gill, Senior Fellow, DFID. Member of ISPC.
* Dave Harris, Independent Consultant, UK
* Moses Tenywa Makooma, Makare University

The PCT needs to appoint the first Chair and set a date for the first meeting.

*Iain Wright*

*8 January 2014*

**Annex 1**

**Scientific Advisory Group for Africa RISING**

**Rationale:**

To ensure continuous high quality of science in Africa RISING and compliance with and evolvement of the program research framework the Africa RISING Program Coordination Team and the regional Project Steering Committees suggested the establishment of an independent standing science advisory body. Such a body would increase trust of the current and future donors in the research carried out by the different regional research teams and eventually attract further funding.

The group would advise the Program Coordination Team (PCT). It has a major role concerning priority setting, establishing strategic partnerships and external linkages to ensure that the technical program is well aligned, and that the needed set of partners participates to achieve the goals and objectives of the program.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

The roles of the members of such a science advisory team would be:

* Provide advice on scientific direction, science quality and feasibility of proposed approaches for successful implementation of Africa RISING
* Provide advice on strategic partnerships needed to implement Africa RISING
* Make recommendations on opportunities for better performance of the program
* Provide advice on strategic elements such as gender mainstreaming, innovation, capacity development, essential for the success of Africa RISING
* Review the global program performance and the relevance of its outcomes
* Conduct internal reviews of the three regional projects in preparation of donor commissioned external program reviews
* Advocate and lobby for Africa RISING with other donor agencies to attract further funding
* Provide advice on how to further develop the science of the program in a next phase

**Composition:**

The Group should be composed of individuals that comprise R4D expertise and insights from diverse institutions and be balanced across gender and geography. The membership should include individuals that have expertise in the following areas:

* Farming systems research
* Gender research mainstreaming
* Participatory research approaches
* Multi-stakeholder research
* Setting up and managing R4D platforms
* Communication
* Monitoring and evaluation

The team should be small (max. 6 persons). The Project Chief Scientists and Project Coordinators would be ex-officio members of this group. Members should be volunteers receiving no honorarium but being reimbursed actual cost when travelling[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Africa RISING PCT will select the Science Advisory Group members and appoint a Chair and Secretary for the first year. Thereafter, the Group will nominate its chair and members, to be ratified by the PCT. The PCT is responsible for reviewing the composition of the committee periodically and is empowered to add further members as required. Committee membership will be for 2-3 years to allow staggered turnover of members.

The group will meet twice a year, one meeting could be electronically.

Member should dedicate 8 days per year for their work on the group. In the case of the chair, this should be 10 days. The Chair will annually report to the PCT and liaise with the PCT members as need arises.

1. Business class airfare by the most direct route will be provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)